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The Files

27 February 1959

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Conference Report - Army Intelligence Board

1. On 19 February 1959 a conference was held in Alcott Hall with a representative of the Army Intelligence Board, Fort Holabird, Maryland. Participating in this conference were:

Major Francis Buffalano - Foreign Operations Intelligence, AIB

-E (Part-time)  
- OC-E/R+D (Part-time)  
-E Liaison  
OC-E/R+D-EP

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2. Major Buffalano reported that the Army's FRR-2, FRT-7 program to develop a miniature agent set had been completely reoriented and that the Signal Corps has been asked to undertake a 31 month program for a family of small agent sets, the structure of which is as follows:

Phase I:

Set A-Combat Control Set. Small single-package transceiver. Voice and CW. Frequency range 2 to 8 mc. Size 8" x 10" x 3". Antenna Kit included. (This portion of the program has the greatest priority. The Signal Corps has been asked to deliver one unit in six months using its quick reaction facility.)

Set B-Guerilla Version of Set A but with some sophisticated keying device, such as an automatic keyer.

Phase II:

A family of three sets with different ranges and power levels:

1. Short Range (0 to 50 miles). A completely transistorized CW system, transmit and receive, with one or two watts of output. This set, and the others in Phase II, are to be modular units with each module not to exceed 1" x 2" x 3" in size. It will have a keying capacity of at least 120, and possibly 300 wpm.
2. Intermediate Range (50 to 200 miles). A 5 to 15-watt transmitter fully transistorized with a frequency range of 2 to 8 mc. (This will be the first Phase II set to be developed and the one in which Major Buffalano has the most immediate interest.)

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3. Long Range (250 to 1500 miles) - A 30-watt set with a vacuum tube final. A power output level switch will be incorporated to permit the operator to reduce his power in order to avoid detection.

4. Ancillary Equipment

- a. Keying Devices - The only automatic keying device available to AIB now is the KD-11 magnetic tape keyer, built in Germany from a TRX recorder. AIB is anxious to develop additional automatic keyers for use with the above systems.
- b. Recorder Reproducible - Suitable base station and agent recorders for medium and high speed operation will be developed.
- c. Simplified Antenna Kits - Such aids as calibrated antenna reels and antenna manuals will be developed in order to facilitate installation of these agent radios.

3. Major Buffalano said that all of the above sets would have fixed-channel transmit and receive functions. He estimated that Army agents utilizing such equipment would be away from their base stations for an average of only 3 days and therefore did not require the frequency and signal plan flexibility available with variable tuning. Major Buffalano inquired what we had developed recently in the field of miniature transmitters and keyers. He said that his group had several operational requirements, including one for a miniature voice set to be used by [redacted] This set must have a 30-mile range.

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4. The RR/D-11 and RT-11 programs were reviewed and Major Buffalano was told that we had no later transmitting or receiving equipment, and that the most advanced keyer we possessed was the UGT-1, which we were obtaining in production quantities. He was told that we had no voice equipment capable of fulfilling his [redacted] requirement.

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5. Major Buffalano described the Air Force URC-33 escape and evasion receiver and said that the AIB was attempting to obtain two units for evaluation. He agreed to furnish us, through [redacted] military characteristics for the equipment described in Paragraph 2.

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